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EAST RIDING  
EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

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**REPORT**

OF THE


School Medical Officer

FOR 1920.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

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*TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Thirteenth Annual Report dealing with the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children within the Area of the East Riding Education Authority during the year 1920.

The year under review is the first since the commencement of the War, in which the Board of Education required the examination of that group of children known as "Entrants," *i.e.*, those young children below the age of 8 years. In order to carry out this instruction of the Board, the appointment of an additional Assistant School Medical Inspector was necessary, and sanction was obtained for the appointment of Miss Evelyn Davidson, L.M.S. She commenced her duties on the 5th July, 1920.

The appointment of a School Dental Officer was sanctioned in 1919, but no appointment could be made for want of applicants. Early in the year, Mr. James Harris, L.D.S., R.C.S., accepted the appointment, and commenced his duties on the 9th February.

At the request of the Board of Education this Report is set out under somewhat different headings than in former years, and in addition the statistical tables have been re-modelled.

A circular letter (number 1153) was received from the Board of Education intimating that an Order had been made fixing the 1st April, 1920, as the appointed day on which Section 18 of the Education Act, 1918, relating to the Medical Inspection of Children attending Secondary and Continuation Schools under the control of the Local Education Authority, should be brought into full operation. This work has been commenced in three of the Secondary Schools in the Riding.

### **STAFF.**

*School Medical Officer.*

ROBERT L. THORNLEY, M.D., D.P.H.

*Assistant School Medical Officers.*

HELEN MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B.

EVELYN DAVIDSON, L.M.S.

*School Dental Officer.*

JAMES HARRIS, L.D.S., R.C.S.

*School Nurses.*

MISS STEPHENSON.

MISS STOCKS.

MISS WARD.

### **SCHOOL HYGIENE.**

The Schools in the Area of the East Riding Education Authority are almost entirely small village Schools, and only a few are in towns which have a public water supply and lighting. In consequence, the best arrangements that can be made from a sanitary point of view are put into practice.

Actually 70 per cent. of the Schools have less than 100 children on the Roll.

The Schools, with a few exceptions, are well situated away from road traffic. In a number of cases the Schoolhouse either adjoins the School buildings or is built within the School grounds. The playgrounds are either asphalted, cemented, or covered with gravel or cinder ash. The larger, newly built Schools, have a part of the playground covered, and in addition, are provided with School gardens.



The ventilation is by means of windows, usually supplemented by wall inlets, and in addition an outlet in the roof is nearly always present. In the more recently erected Schools the windows have been provided with excellent Hopper ventilation. None of the Schools are large enough to suggest having any mechanical system of ventilation even if thought advisable.

The question of artificial lighting does not arise, as the Schools close as early as half-past three during the winter months in order that small children may reach home before dark. The natural lighting of the Schools is satisfactory so far as the proportion of window to floor space is concerned, and the desks can always be arranged to avoid compelling the scholars to sit with their backs to the light unless there is an additional source of light on either the right or left hand.

Open fireplaces are most frequently used, with sometimes open or closed stoves.

Hot water pipes are only in use in the larger Schools unless, as in the case of some of the small Schools, an open fireplace is used in combination with a low pressure radiator. This combination appears to be quite satisfactory, especially for infants' departments, as the open fireplace alone is not sufficient to adequately warm a classroom even with all ventilators closed.

Very few of the old type long desks now remain in the Schools. They have been gradually replaced by dual and single desks. Slates are also obsolete in most of the Infants' classes, and none are issued by the Authority. In the majority of the Schools a bag is given to each Scholar upon admission in which the child's books, pencils, etc., are kept. Whenever opportunity arises blackboards have been built into the walls of the classrooms so as to avoid making use of stands, thus economising in floor space.

Where possible water is laid on from the public supply, but the majority of the Schools are compelled to use well water or to store rainwater. Methods for the disposal of excreta include privy, with midden, or the pail system, and those Schools which have a public

water supply are provided with water closets. Generally speaking the outbuildings are in a good state of repair, and are kept in a sanitary condition. All the Schools are supplied with Disinfectant. Arrangements have been made for the disposal of refuse from all the Council Schools.

Properly equipped lavatories have been installed in Schools that have a public water supply; elsewhere, a washstand is usually provided.

The cloakroom accommodation is far from satisfactory, except in newly-built or re-modelled Schools. In these, provision is made for the drying of the children's clothing and boots by means of hot water pipes, and plenty of space is provided between the numbered hat-pegs. In the smaller Schools, unfortunately, only the porch, with its attendant drawbacks, is available as a cloakroom.

The state of the Schools as regards general cleanliness is usually good, and should give no cause for complaint if the Head Teachers will supervise it, for the School Cleaners are not underpaid.

One new School was erected at Withernsea during the year. It is a temporary building, or rather one built of six re-modelled army huts. It has accommodation for nearly 300 scholars in 8 classrooms, together with a Laboratory, Workshop and Assembly Hall. It is heated by low pressure hot water system throughout, and each classroom has cross ventilation.

An additional classroom and workshop has also been built at the Howden Council School.

The following improvements have been carried out at Provided Schools :—

Renewal of playground surfaces at Barlby, Foggathorpe, Howden, Norton, Wold Newton.

Improvements of the Heating Apparatus at Barlby, Driffeld, Pocklington, Withernsea, Wold Newton.

And minor repairs have been made at Bubwith (Teacher's House), Marton, Wallingfen, Speeton.

### **MEDICAL INSPECTION.**

The detailed arrangements for the carrying out of the work of medical inspection has not differed from those in previous years.

The Head Teachers are given about fourteen days' notice of the routine inspection in order that they may have time to prepare the cards and notify the parents of the children to be examined. Except in those very small Schools, consisting of one classroom only, the examination itself is held in the School. When other arrangements are necessary these are made by the Head Teacher, who usually allows the Inspector to use a room in the Schoolhouse.

The age groups which have been inspected are specified by the Board of Education, *i.e.*, Entrants, Intermediate Group, aged 8 years, Leavers and Specials. (For statistics see Table I.). In addition to those examined at these routine inspections a number of children have, of course, been re-examined on account of some disease or defect.

## SCOPE OF EXAMINATION.

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1920, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

## A. Routine Medical Inspection.

AGE .....	ENTRANTS.					
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.
BOYS .....	55	142	528	302	238	1265
GIRLS .....	32	111	483	302	186	1117
TOTALS .....	87	256	1011	604	424	2382

AGE .....	INTERMEDIATE.		LEAVERS.					
	8	Other Ages.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
BOYS .....	903	296	850	152	5	...	2206	3471
GIRLS .....	894	376	843	177	3	...	2293	3410
TOTALS...	1797	672	1693	329	8	...	4499	6881

## B. Special Inspections.

	Special Cases.	No. of Children Re-Examined.
BOYS.....	92	509
GIRLS .....	109	477
TOTALS .....	201	986

## C. Total number of individual children inspected by the School Medical Officer, whether as routine or special cases (no child being counted more than once during one Year.

No. of individual children inspected.
7082.



## RESULTS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

### UNCLEANLINESS.

As will be seen from Table II., 796 cases of uncleanness were reported by the School Medical Inspectors. This shews an increase on the previous year's total, which was 524 cases. The increase is partially explained by the greater number of children examined. The following up of these cases is left in the hands of the School Nurses. The difficulty in dealing with chronic cases of uncleanness in the Rural Schools is great. Threats of prosecution are often of little avail, and the Authority hesitate to take such steps, except in extreme cases, because the fine which would be imposed results in less money being available for the purchase of food, etc., for the family, and, in consequence, the children are the innocent sufferers. Another difficulty to be overcome arises from the fact that there are no cleansing stations in the Area to which children could be sent for treatment. The Committee, however, have recently made arrangements with the Guardians of all but two Poor Law Institutions for the use of their baths, etc., for the cleansing of verminous children. So far it has not been necessary to take advantage of these arrangements, as, in three cases, the threat of compulsory cleansing had the desired effect.

TABLE II.

## RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1920.

Defect or Disease.					Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
					Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	...	...	...		5	1	...	3
Uncleanliness :								
Head	...	...	...	...	563	...	16	...
Body	...	...	...	...	211	...	6	...
<b>SKIN.</b>								
Ringworm :								
Head	...	...	...	...	49	1	6	1
Body	...	...	...	...	17	...	1	...
Scabies	...	...	...	...	61	...	9	...
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	36	...	2	...
Other Disease (non-Tubercular)					28	...	3	2
<b>EYE.</b>								
Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	55	...	4	...
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...
Keratitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Corneal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Defective Vision	...	...	...	...	184	} 39	22	} 25
Squint	...	...	...	...	19		2	
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...
<b>EAR.</b>								
Defective Hearing...	...	...	...	...	49	2	1	9
Otitis Media	...	...	...	...	11	...	2	...
Other Ear Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
<b>NOSE AND THROAT.</b>								
Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	...	...	120	22	10	31
Adenoids	...	...	...	...	54	28	5	43
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids...	...	...	...	...	124	9	6	14
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	31	3	1	...
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tubercular)	...	...	...	...	20	...	2	...
Defective Speech	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Teeth—Dental Diseases	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...
<b>HEART AND CIRCULATION.</b>								
Heart Disease :								
Organic	}	...	...	...	14	2	...	4
Functional		...	...	...				
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	83	...	9	...
<b>LUNGS.</b>								
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	36	5	1	5
Other Non-Tubercular Diseases...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...

TABLE II. (*continued*).

## RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1920.

Defect of Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
(1.)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<b>TUBERCULOSIS.</b>				
Pulmonary :				
Definite ... ..	...	...	1	...
Suspected ... ..	5	1	1	3
Non-Pulmonary :				
Glands ... ..	2	1	1	...
Spine ... ..	...	...	...	...
Hip ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Bones and Joints ... ..	...	1	...	...
Skin ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Forms ... ..	...	...	...	..
<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM.</b>				
Epilepsy ... ..	...	...	...	1
Chorea ... ..	1	1	...	...
Other Conditions ... ..	1	2	..	...
<b>DEFORMITIES.</b>				
Rickets ... ..	1	...	...	...
Spinal Curvature ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Forms ... ..	3	1	...	1
Mental Condition ... ..	...	5	...	8
Other Defects and Diseases ... ..	36	21	...	8
Number of individual children having defects which required treatment to be kept under observation ... .. 1939				

## MINOR AILMENTS.

Table IV. (A) gives full details under this heading. The work is entirely in the hands of the School Nurses to whom reports of such defects found at routine medical inspections are given.

**TABLE IV.**  
**TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1920.**  
**A.—Treatment of Minor Ailments.**

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
<b>SKIN.</b>				
Ringworm—Head...	241	15	165	210
Ringworm—Body	53	5	45	50
Scabies ... ..	328	67	205	272
Impetigo ... ..	427	13	364	377
Minor Injuries ..	1	1	—	1
Other Skin Diseases	113	3	87	90
 Ear Disease ... ..	 60	 —	 46	 46
 Eye Disease (External and other)	 171	 32	 97	 129
 Miscellaneous ...	 117	 4	 93	 97
 Totals...	 1511	 170	 1102	 1272

## VISUAL DEFECT.

227 cases of defective vision (including squint) were referred for treatment compared with 205 in the previous year.

The standard taken for defective vision is 6/18, but, if the School Medical Inspector deems it advisable, children with sight not so defective are also referred for treatment.



B. Treatment of Visual Defect.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.									13
Referred for Refraction	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were prescribed.	For whom Glasses were provided.	Recommended for treatment other than by glasses.	Received other forms of treatment.	For whom no treatment was considered necessary.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme. Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Otherwise.	Total.					
227	81	37	2	120	79	79	3	3	18

Eighty-one children were sent for treatment by the East Riding Education Authority to an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and in 50 of these cases glasses were provided. The 81 cases referred to were, upon enquiry, found to be children whose parents were unable to pay the cost entailed in obtaining the necessary treatment. The expenses incurred by the Authority in connection with these cases was £84 12s. 7d., which gives an average cost of about £1 0s. 10d. per case.

The arrangements for the treatment by the Education Authority of necessitous children are the same as those of last year. The following table gives the details of the 81 cases assisted by the Authority :—

Centre.	Defect.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
York .....	Vision.....	13	8	21
	Squint.....	...	...	...
Scarborough.	Vision.....	4	6	10
	Squint.....	...	...	...
Hull .....	Vision.....	19	27	46
	Squint.....	...	4	4
Total.....		36	45	81

Some of the cases sent for treatment are incapable of being benefited to any great extent by the provision of glasses, with the result that sooner or later the children either discard the glasses entirely or do not wear them regularly. The treatment of such cases may seem a waste of money, but the Committee have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done all that is possible for the children. In a few cases of defective sight glasses have not been recommended by the eye specialist in view

of the fact that the children were nearing the age for leaving School to go to Agricultural work, where the need for spectacles does not arise.

#### EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

77 cases of external eye disease were reported during the year. The chief defects were inflammation of the eyes, and eyelids. All such cases are visited by the School Nurses, and in some cases treated by them. Two cases of external eye disease were treated at Hospitals at the expense of the Education Authority.

#### TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Altogether 319 cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids were brought to the notice of parents. In fifty-one of these the Authority paid, entirely or in part, for the removal by operation.

### C. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for Treatment.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.			Received other forms of treatment.
	Received Operative Treatment.			
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme. Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
	51	26	77	
351				98



## TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Centre.	Defect.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
York .....	Tonsils ...	1	2	3
	T. and A.	1	1	2
	Adenoids..	...	...	...
Bridlington ..	Tonsils ...	1	1	2
	T. and A.	...	5	5
	Adenoids..	1	...	1
Hull Children's Hospital..	Tonsils ...	3	3	6
	T. and A.	10	13	23
	Adenoids..	4	3.	7
Hull Royal Infirmary.	Tonsils ...	...	...	...
	T. and A	...	1	1
	Adenoids..	...	...	...
Scarborough.	Tonsils*..	...	1	1
Total .....		21	30	51

\* Special case.

The above table gives the details of the operations and the places where performed. The total cost to the Authority was £42 8s. 9d., giving an average cost of 16s. 7d., which is slightly less than last year. All cases where applications are made for assistance are inquired into as regards their financial circumstances so that only necessitous cases are assisted.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Only one case of definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis was reported by the Medical Inspectors during the year, but nine cases were certified as being suspected, and seven others were put forward for re-examination. Four girls were sent to Withernsea Sanatorium for treatment. Pending the completion of the children's block at the Raywell Sanatorium little can be done for cases of Tubercle amongst School children, as the Bramblewood Sanatorium, to which cases have previously been sent, now only admits adult patients. Child contacts of cases of notified Pulmonary Tuberculosis are specially examined, and last year 28 boys and 34 girls were inspected.

#### SKIN DISEASES.

Under this heading, which includes, of course, ringworm of the head and body, 212 cases were found at the routine medical inspections, and in addition, 951 were discovered by the School Nurses during their periodical visits to the Schools. All these cases are kept under observation by the Nurses until remedied, or the child leaves the School or Riding.

The treatment of the cases of ringworm is very unsatisfactory owing to the chronic nature of the complaint and lack of up-to-date facilities for its treatment. During the year there were 294 cases found by the Inspectors and Nurses as compared with 152 in the previous year. In the absence of X Ray treatment, and in order to avoid a prolonged exclusion from School on account of infection, any child suffering from the complaint is permitted to attend whilst under treatment, provided the infected part is covered.

The following is a copy of the card of instructions sent to parents of children suffering from Ringworm :

#### TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.

1. First cut hair closely over and round the diseased part.
2. Every night rub well in a very *small* quantity of the ointment which the Nurse or Doctor will give you.
3. Make two caps similar to that shewn to you by the Nurse. Wear one constantly : the caps must be frequently washed.
4. The head must be washed thoroughly at least twice a week with soap and hot water.
5. As ringworm is a very troublesome complaint these simple instructions must be very carefully carried out to cure the disease.

Scabies is a highly contagious disease which shews no diminution. The great obstacle to the cure is the lack of care in the carrying out of the instructions for treatment given to the parent or guardian by the School Nurse. The remarks dealing with our difficulties in the rural Schools regarding the cleansing of children are equally applicable to the treatment of Scabies.

#### EAR DISEASES AND HEARING.

Thirteen cases of ear discharge were reported. This dangerous condition of the ear is, I regret to say, much neglected owing to the reluctance of parents to allow their children to undergo operative treatment for what they consider is a trivial complaint. One of the cases referred to had to be excluded from School on account of the offensive odour. The majority of the cases under the heading of defective hearing are simply due to wax, and are usually easily remedied.

#### DENTAL DEFECTS.

This is the first year in which any systematic dental inspection and treatment has been carried out. Mr. Harris, L.D.S., was appointed School Dental Officer early in the year, and commenced his duties on the 9th February.

A central clinic has been equipped in the same premises as the Infant Welfare Centre and the Maternity Home. The Clinic is used for the Driffield and neighbouring Schools only, but it also serves as an office and store for the Dental Officer. In order to carry out his work in the Schools generally, he has been provided with a portable chair and apparatus.

A commencement was made with the children aged 5, 6, and 7 years, and it is the intention of the Authority to examine each year another age group so that eventually all the children attending the Elementary Schools will be under dental supervision and treatment.

The arrangements for carrying out the dental inspection are similar to those for medical inspection. Notices are sent to the Head Teachers of the date of the inspection, together with a supply of cards for boys and girls respectively, with the request that they should be filled in, and the parents notified of the date of the visit. A supply of forms for this purpose is forwarded.

A subsequent visit is made for the purpose of carrying out the treatment of those children whose teeth were found to be in some way defective. In order to lessen the number of refusals of treatment, the Head Teachers are asked to use their influence to impress upon the parents and children the necessity of having defective teeth attended to.

Since the inception of the work in February last all the Schools have been visited and 5,754 children inspected. Of this number, 3,209 were referred for treatment, and 1,008 children attending 118 Schools have been actually treated. A large number of the children referred for treatment will be dealt with during the first quarter of the year 1921, and the disproportion between the "referred for treatment" scholars and those actually treated will be substantially reduced.



# D. Treatment of Dental Defects.

## 1. NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH.

		Age Groups.										Specials.	Total.
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
(a) Inspected by Dentist.	Boys	831	1056	1041	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	5754
	Girls	811	972	992	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	
(b) * Referred for treatment ... ..		3209											3209
(c) Actually treated... ..		1008											1008
(d) Re-treated (result of periodical examination)... ..													

\* A large number of the children in this group will be treated during the first quarter of year 1921.

## 2. PARTICULARS OF TIME GIVEN AND OF OPERATION UNDERTAKEN.

No. of half-days devoted to inspection.	No. of half-days devoted to treatment.	Total Number of Attendances made by Children for Treatment.	No. of Permanent Teeth.		No. of Temporary Teeth.		Total Number of Fillings.	No. of Administrations of Local Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6)	No. of other operations.	
			Extracted.	Filled.	Extracted.	Filled.			Permanent Teeth.	Temporary Teeth.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
207	179	1008	2	78	560	1641	1719	152	921	

The number of refusals of treatment by parents was 481 or 14.9 per cent. This number is not so high as might have been expected, as country people are not enthusiastic regarding an untried innovation, and, generally speaking, the children have a dread of visiting a dentist.

Mr. Harris has carried out his work in a very kindly manner, and the credit for the good attendance should be largely ascribed to his efforts.

#### CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

Such cases as can be remedied by appliances are followed up, and the parents urged to get what is needed. No children have been sent for operation, and no surgical appliances supplied by the Authority.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All supposed cases which come to the knowledge of the Head Teachers are at once reported to both the School Medical Officer and the District Medical Officer. Form S.A. 16 is used for this purpose.

### NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORTED BY HEAD TEACHERS DURING 1920.

Disease.	Actual Cases.	Children excluded on account of actual cases.
Measles .....	1379	578
Mumps .....	333	13
Whooping Cough.....	164	34
Diphtheria .....	118	99
Chicken Pox.....	118	...
Skin Disease.....	93	7
Scarlet Fever .....	62	43
Ringworm... ..	37	...
Influenza .....	17	...
Sore Throat .....	7	...
Typhoid .....	2	...
Total.....	2,330	774

When cases of either Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough or Diphtheria occur amongst the children attending School, all under five years of age are excluded. The total closure of the School is usually only insisted upon when the attendance is markedly reduced. In some epidemics this low attendance may be caused more by the absence of children through the parents' fear of infection than by actual cases.

**List of Schools Closed owing to Outbreaks of Infectious Disease during 1920.**

Disease.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total.
Measles .....	37	17	—	3	57
Whooping Cough.....	3	—	2	1	6
Influenza .....	1	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever .....	—	1	1	—	2
Diphtheria.....	3	1	2	2	8
Chicken Pox.....	—	—	2	1	3
Severe Colds.....	3	—	—	—	3
Mumps ..... ..	3	1	—	1	5
Total.....	50	20	7	8	85

62 closures in 1919.

267 „ „ 1918.

39 „ „ 1917.

50 „ „ 1916.

55 „ „ 1915.

Eighteen Schools were closed by the District Medical Officers of Health and 67 by the School Medical Officer.

The above Table shews the number of Schools closed on account of infectious disease during the year.

TABLE V.  
Summary of Treatment of Defects as shewn in Table IV. (A, B, C, D, and F, but excluding E).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.		
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.	Total.
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.
Minor Ailments ..	1511	170	1102
Visual Defects ...	227	81	39
Defects of Nose and Throat .....	351	51	124
Dental Defects .....	3209	1008	101
Other Defects .....	195	—	141
Total .....	5493	1210	1507
			2817



**FOLLOWING UP.**

The methods of following up the defects found at Routine Medical Inspections do not differ from those in practice during previous years.

A list of children and the defects from which they suffer is sent to the Head Teachers who, at the end of four weeks, report upon the results of the letters sent by the Authority to the parents. Those cases in which nothing has been done are either referred to the School Attendance Officer or marked for re-examination. Minor ailments and cases of uncleanness are taken in hand by the School Nurses as soon as possible after the receipt of the Medical Inspection Cards at the Office. Other cases of the same defects are detected by the Nurses during the course of their periodical visits to the Schools.

TABLE VI.

**SUMMARY RELATING TO CHILDREN MEDICALLY INSPECTED AT THE  
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR, 1920.**

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections .....	6881
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from —	
Malnutrition .....	614
Skin Disease .....	202
Defective Vision (including Squint) .....	822
Eye Disease .....	86
Defective Hearing .....	86
Ear Disease .....	57
Nose and Throat Disease .....	637
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular) .....	72
Defective Speech.....	68
Dental Disease.....	1010
Heart Disease —	
Organic     }	
Functional }	31
Anæmia .....	85
Lung Disease (non-tubercular) .....	94
Tuberculosis —	
Pulmonary { definite .....	—
} suspected .....	11
Non-pulmonary.....	10
Disease of the Nervous System .....	23
Deformities .....	80
Other defects and diseases .....	205
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	141
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.) .....	1010
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.) .....	605

“Specials ” are not included in this Table.

### SCHOOL NURSES.

To facilitate the work of the School Nurses the Riding is roughly divided into three Divisions, and the average number of visits paid to each School in the year is as follows :—

Buckrose .....	8
Holderness .....	9
Howdenshire .....	9

The total number of examinations of children made by the Nurses was :—

Buckrose .....	3,526
Holderness .....	4,568
Howdenshire .....	4,499

Total .....	12,593
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The number of individual children found unclean by the Medical Inspectors and the School Nurses was 1,795, and 1,115 cases were brought forward from the previous year, thus making a total of 2,910 children to be visited.

### PROSECUTIONS.

No prosecutions have been instituted during the year under the Children Act, 1908, but proceedings have been taken in 4 cases against the parents of dirty and verminous children under the School Attendance Bye-laws.

In one case, a fine of £1 including costs was inflicted; in another, an Attendance Order was made and defendant ordered to pay costs (4/-), and also to pay £1 if the Order was not complied with; the two remaining cases were adjourned for one month, and ultimately withdrawn, as the children were attending School in a clean condition.

The Authority also took proceedings against a mother, who assaulted a School Nurse with a poker

when the Nurse visited the home to give advice as to cleansing a child. The mother was fined £5, or in default 1 month's imprisonment.

In addition, the Authority dealt satisfactorily with two old-standing cases without legal proceedings. In one of these cases, where the father of the children concerned was a deceased ex-Service man, and the mother, who had re-married, was drawing an allowance for the children, the Authority reported the condition of the children to the Local War Pensions Committee, with the result that the children were taken to a Poor Law institution, and the allowance transferred from the mother to the Poor Law Guardians. In the other case, in conjunction with the N.S.P.C.C., arrangements were made with the Local Sanitary Authority of the District to disinfect the house and bedding, and for the children to be cleansed at the Poor Law Institution, and to stay in the Institution until the house was cleansed.

### **OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.**

The need of Open-air Day Schools hardly exists in such a rural district as the East Riding of Yorkshire, but, when the weather conditions are suitable, classes are naturally held in the playground, quite apart from the walks which have to be undertaken in connection with nature study.

### **PHYSICAL TRAINING.**

The following is the report of Miss Biggs, who was appointed Organising Mistress for Physical Training last year. The report covers a period from 21st March to July only, as Miss Biggs resigned her appointment in October, and no successor has yet been appointed.

(1) Since I began my duties as Organiser of Physical Training on March 21st, 1926, I have inspected 101 Schools in the Riding. The standard of work varies according to the conditions under which it is carried out, the conditions being:—

1. The ability of the Teacher.
2. Accommodation—Indoor and Outdoor.
3. The amount of time devoted to this subject.
4. Clothing.
5. Apparatus.
6. The character of instruction.



(2) (a) In the Schools where the Headmaster or Headmistress has had scarcely any training in the subject, and does not realise the importance of a healthy mind and body for the improvement of the child generally, the work is unsatisfactory. The teachers are generally unsuitable and the minimum amount of physical training has been taken.

(b) The men recently returned from the Army know more about the work and are very enthusiastic. The instruction given may not always be on the right lines, but they are making an effort to carry out the requirements of the Revised Syllabus.

(c) Teachers who have had previous training at College, and have kept up-to-date by attending Summer Schools and Teachers' Classes, have a decided advantage over the others. The result in these Schools is very satisfactory. In the following Schools the work is very good:—

Gilberdyke Co.	Nafferton C.E.
Halsham.	Norton.
Holme Co.	Sutton Co.
Marton.	Wharram.

#### PREMISES.

(3) (a) *Non-Provided Schools.* The space is limited both indoors and outdoors; in addition to this the ventilation is not always good. Where there is a field available it can be used during the Summer Term, but when it is too wet for out door work the lesson must be taken in the classroom and only a certain amount of corrective work can be done. The recreational side is neglected. In these Schools the standard of work is not a high one. The teachers are working at a great disadvantage, and you do not find all round development in the children.

(b) *Council Schools.* These are well provided with playgrounds, although the surface is not always the best for physical training, but there is more floor space at the disposal of the teacher. During the winter months the work must suffer where there is no hall or suitable room for this lesson.

(4) The amount of time devoted to physical training in the past has generally been two half-hour lessons in the week, taken during the afternoon session. We are now getting five 20 minute periods during the morning session, and in addition some Schools are having one hour for games during the afternoon. The Infants have quarter of an hour during the morning and one quarter during the afternoon.

(5) The children are severely handicapped by wearing unsuitable clothing. The boys will wear coats and tight collars, which restrict free movement; girls are better clad; the country children with their heavy boots or clogs find it impossible to move freely, but I am hoping to overcome this difficulty by getting the children to make shoes for indoor use, and for concrete and asphalt playgrounds. Miss Turner has helped me, and we have 30 Schools now making shoes, and three Schools have started tunics.



(6) We have very little in the way of games apparatus in the Schools. The Woodwork Department has done its share in improving the general store; at the Boys' Class, Norton, Mr. Oldfield is making three sets of jumping stands, and when these are finished he will start on rounder bats.

Individual Schools have by their own efforts collected money and bought apparatus. Small rural Schools usually have a cricket outfit, and the older children in the Schools are making bean bags for relay races, and Infants' woollen balls, but we need some system for supplying apparatus to every School in the Riding. There is a shortage of footballs, skipping ropes, and rubber balls, and netball apparatus.

(7) Very few Schools had any definite scheme of work for the year, and generally only half a Table is given in one lesson, no games and very few activity movements. The work has been at a standstill on account of the change from the 1909 syllabus to the Revised Book, but now that each teacher is provided with a copy, each class should have a fixed scheme for the year.

#### PHYSIQUE AND DEPORTMENT.

(8) In all the Schools I have inspected, the general physique has been very good. There are a few special cases who require breathing exercises for contracted chests, and shoulder blade work, but there are very few cases of Scoliosis, and these are only slight ones.

The deportment is not good, the children are slow and their walking positions are ungainly and awkward.

#### DEMONSTRATIONS.

(9) A demonstration was held at Withernsea on Saturday, June the 5th. Three lessons were given, Boys' Class VI. and VII., Girls' Class II. and Infants, and one class gave several Country and Scandinavian Dances. There was a good attendance, and the teachers seemed interested, and several questions were asked about the work.

On Saturday, July the 10th, there was a similar demonstration in Norton at the Girls' School, and the following Saturday at Gilberdyke Council School.

#### SUGGESTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR RAISING THE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE RIDING.

1. Teachers' Classes held at all the Centres where demonstrations have been taken.
2. Teachers who show a special aptitude for the subject should specialise in it.
3. Schools where there is no accommodation could be helped by renting a small field for the summer months, and where there are Institutes or Parish Rooms available, these might be obtained for a small sum during the winter.
4. A Sports' Association formed in each district and a Final Sports' Day for the Riding. The same could be done for games.

(Signed) D. BIGGS.

### **PROVISION OF MEALS.**

The Authority have not provided meals for necessitous or other children. They have assisted Local Managers working as a voluntary organisation by the provision of apparatus and payment for service at Barlby and Gilberdyke Schools and by the provision of apparatus only at Patrington.

The dinner schemes at these Schools are self-supporting, and a varied dietary is offered.

### **SCHOOL BATHS.**

This subject has been dealt with when speaking of uncleanliness.

### **CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.**

3,282 parents were present at the examination of their children. This number gives a percentage of 46.3, which compares very favourably with 39.9 per cent. in 1919 and 36 per cent. in 1918.

There were 64 objections to the examination of individual children, compared with 59 in the previous year. Generally speaking the parents are willing to carry out the advice of the School Medical Inspectors, but for such defects as enlarged tonsils and adenoids and defective sight a number of replies to the Authority's letter are received expressing inability to provide the necessary treatment owing to the expense. All such cases are inquired into with a view to assistance being given.

### **CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.**

Prior to an inspection at a School the Head Teacher inserts certain details such as the height, weight, age, etc., of a child upon the medical card, and thus much time is saved and valuable assistance rendered to the Inspectors. The Head Teacher also primarily tests the eyesight of the scholars by means of the Snellen Test Card. As already mentioned, they also assist considerably in the following up of defects found at the examination and use their influence with the parents to obtain treatment for the children.

### CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

All cases of apparent neglect in which no improvement can be secured by the usual efforts are referred to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and visits by an Inspector of this Society appear to have a very salutary effect. Six cases were reported during the year with satisfactory results.

### DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

All children coming under the above heading, whether physically or mentally, are reported by either the School Medical Inspectors, the Head Teachers, the School Attendance Officers, or the School Nurses, and arrangements are made for their special medical examination at an early date. Thirty-three such children were seen during the year. This number includes 22 mental defectives, 3 deaf and dumb children, 4 epileptic children, and 4 physical defectives. Seven of the mentally deficient children were reported to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee as being incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School. In six cases the parents were unwilling to allow their children to be sent away from home. The Education Authority secured places in institutions for four defective children as follows :—

- 1 mentally defective girl to Knotty Ash, Liverpool.
- 1 epileptic girl to the Maghull Home, near Liverpool.
- 2 deaf and dumb boys to the Derby School for the Blind.

Six children are at present on our list awaiting vacancies.



TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all exceptional Children in the Area in 1920.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
<b>BLIND</b> (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education. (Blind and Deaf Children Act, 1893).		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	5	2	7
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ... ..	1	1	2
		Not at School ... ..	3	1	4
<b>DEAF AND DUMB</b> (including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education. (Blind and Deaf Children Act, 1893).		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	4	4	8
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf ... ..	6	6	12
		Not at School... ..	2	—	2
<b>MENTALLY DEFICIENT.</b>	<b>Feeble Minded.</b>	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	41	19	60
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children...	3	3	6
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year ...	5	1	6
		Not at School ... ..	4	4	8
	<b>Imbeciles.</b>	At School ... ..	—	—	—
		Not at School... ..	4	1	5
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year ...	—	—	—
	<b>Idiots.</b>	Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year ...	1	—	1
<b>EPILEPTICS.</b>		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	6	9	15
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ... ..	3	2	5
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	—	—	—
		Not at School... ..	3	6	9

Table III.—(Continued).

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
		<b>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</b>			
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	34	23	57
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	—	—	—
	<b>Crippling due to Tuberculosis.</b>	Not at School... ..	10	11	24
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	3	4	7
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	—	—	—
	<b>Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, i.e., Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.</b>	Not at School... ..	2	—	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	15	13	28
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	—	—	—
	Other Physical Defectives, <i>e.g.</i> , delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools; Children suffering from severe heart disease.	Not at School... ..	7	4	11
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	18	16	34
		Attending Open-Air Schools ... ..	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open-Air Schools...	—	—	—
DULL OR BACKWARD.		Not at School ... ..	3	5	8
		Retarded 2 years. Retarded 3 years. }			177



Having reached the age of 16 years two children who had been maintained by the Education Authority in Institutions for the feeble minded were transferred to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913, and are being detained in the Institutions. One deaf and dumb child was returned to his home as incapable of receiving benefit from training in a Special School for such cases by reason of his defective mental powers, and is now under the control of the Mental Deficiency Act Committee. The actual number of defective children now maintained in Institutions by the Education Authority under the Elementary Education Act is 25, made up as follows :—

12	Deaf and Dumb children.	
6	Mental Defective	„
5	Epileptic	„
2	Blind	„

Five Blind children are maintained by the Higher Education Committee in Colleges for the Blind.

### **SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

Medical Inspection and treatment of children attending Secondary Schools under Section 18 of the Education Act of 1918 was brought into operation on the 1st April, 1920.

**DETAILS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
DURING THE YEAR, 1920.**

No. of Children Examined.		Treatment.				
		Referred for Treat- ment.	Obtained	Promised	Refused.	Left School.
Boys .....	96	13	5	4	2	2
Girls ...	246	8	6	2	—	—
Total ...	342	21	11	6	2	2

**DETAILS OF DEFECTS BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF PARENTS.**

Disease or defect.	No. of Cases.	Treat- ment obtained.	Treat- ment Promised	Treat- ment Refused.	Left School.
Vision .....	5	2	2	—	1
Tonsils, enlarged..	6	4	1	1	—
Tonsils, inflamed...	1	1	—	—	—
Glands, enlarged...	1	1	—	—	—
Teeth .....	6	—	3	2	1
Ringworm, head...	1	1	—	—	—
Scabies .....	1	1	—	—	—
Other defects .....	2	1	1	—	—
Total .....	23	11	7	3	2

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY RELATING TO CHILDREN MEDICALLY INSPECTED AT THE  
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1920.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections.....	342
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from—	
Malnutrition.....	36
Skin Disease .....	21
Defective Vision (including Squint) .....	25
Eye Disease .....	3
Defective Hearing .....	2
Ear Disease .....	3
Nose and Throat Disease .....	13
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular) .....	2
Defective Speech.....	1
Dental Disease.....	42
Heart Disease—	
Organic     )	
Functional ) .....	3
Anæmia .....	1
Lung Disease (non-tubercular) .....	1
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary { definite .....	—
suspected .....	1
Non-pulmonary.....	1
Disease of the Nervous System .....	—
Deformities .....	43
Other defects and diseases .....	11
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) .....	—
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) .....	20
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.).....	10

Altogether there are five Secondary Schools in the Area; three Schools for Boys and two for Girls. The medical examination has, so far, only extended to the two Girls' Schools and one of the Boys'. The details of the work in connection therewith do not materially differ from those which obtain in the Elementary Schools.

In concluding my report I wish to express my thanks to the Medical and Clerical Staff for their ready help during the year and to the Head Teachers throughout the Riding for their co-operation.

R. THORNLEY,

*School Medical Officer.*

County Hall,  
Beverley,  
April, 1921.

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Area of County .....	741,172 acres.
Estimated population in 1919 .....	159,010
Number of Schools or Departments .....	214
Number of Scholars on the Roll .....	20,097
Average Attendance of children over five years of age .....	17,270.1
Number of children under five years of age on the Roll .....	871
Number of School Attendance Officers .....	13
Number of School Nurses .....	3
*Gross expenditure on account of Medical Inspection .....	£3,360 17s. 11d.
*Gross expenditure per head .....	3s. 4d.

\*The grant from the Board of Education has not, of course,  
been deducted.



